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PROGRAM Dan Rather Commentary STATION WTOP Radio
CBS Network

DATE April 22, 1982 5:40 P.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Admiral Inman Resigns

DAN RATHER: Everyone agrees that Bobby Inman was good, maybe the best professional intelligence man in the United States. So it should have been a surprise when his resignation from the CIA was accepted so quickly, so coolly. But it wasn't surprising at all. Bobby Inman was good, but you can make a lot of enemies what way.

What did Inman in, in a moment.

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RATHER: The boys in the KGB must be toasting each other, because Bobby Inman was just the kind of guy they didn't want as number two at the CIA. Inman was a career Navy man, and they often make it big in American intelligence. Usually they're "Damn the torpedoes. Let's have an adventure" types. But not Inman. He was, to begin with, brilliant. In 20 years as an intelligence specialist, he mastered the intricacies of standard, orthodox intelligence-gathering, and then he mastered the technology of intelligence. He was thoughtful, as in full of thought. He had a deep, sharp sense of the place of intelligence, a sharp sense of its inherent limits and its ethical limits. He pondered how to have a first-rate intelligence-gathering operation without endangering civil liberties.

This was -- how to put it? -- not entirely in tune with the foremost concerns of others in the Reagan Administration. And this became quickly apparent.

Inman's boss at the CIA was William Casey, not a professional intelligence man, but a professional politician. Ronald Reagan's former campaign manager, in fact. It was said that a